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APPLICATION FOR PATENT

ON

ENHANCED PERSONAL VIDEO RECORDER

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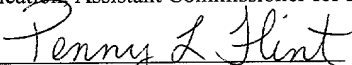
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ENHANCED PERSONAL VIDEO RECORDER

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention generally relates to the field of video entertainment systems and particularly to a personal video recording system.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Presently, the public at large is offered a variety of entertainment selections. As competition between different multimedia presentations increases users may become overwhelmed with choices. While users are typically offered diverse multimedia choices, these selections in some instances may conflict with other multimedia presentations that the user may wish to experience. Other drawbacks to present multimedia presentations include conflicts between the user's schedule and the broadcast of a multimedia presentation and conflicts between members of groups of users.

[0003] In order to allow users to optimize their options various technologies have been developed to enable the user some limited flexibility as to which multimedia presentation they will experience. In particular the field of broadcast multimedia presentations includes video cassette recorders (VCR). VCRs allow a user the opportunity to tape a broadcast for replay at a later time. The VCR user is limited to certain primitive data management techniques. VCR data management techniques limit the VCR user to viewing or recording a single broadcast or requires the user to employ multiple VCRs to achieve additional functionality. A VCR user is limited to playing an event, rewinding, fast forwarding, and pausing the recorded event.

[0004] A personal video recorder (PVR) offers increased features over that of VCRs such as allowing a user the opportunity to record and view simultaneously. The user of a PVR may even be able to view a delayed presentation of an event being currently recorded, as well as previously recorded events. While the PVR allows additional features in

comparison to the VCR, the PVR fails to provide additional features to enhance the user's overall experience.

[0005] Drawbacks to current PVRs include limitations on how the user may experience multimedia presentations. While PVRs offer advantages over VCR technology, drawbacks to current PVRs may impact consumer choices. Consumers typically are offered a range of features, which may enhance a user's overall viewing experience. Compelling functional characteristics may add to a user's overall satisfaction with a PVR and ultimately, additional functionality may cause a consumer to purchase one PVR over that of a competing PVR manufacturer or may act as an incentive for a consumer to purchase a higher priced PVR to obtain additional functionality.

[0006] Presently, PVRs are limited to recording a multimedia broadcast in its entirety for replay at a later time or for delayed broadcast. Delayed broadcast may include beginning to record a broadcast event and while the event is occurring starting the event for the PVR user. When a current PVR is utilized in the delayed broadcast manner the user may be limited to performing a single time shift, such as the time shift between recording and display, thus a user may not be able to scroll through the stored portion of the event without disturbing the recording of the event.

[0007] Current PVRs fail to offer effective data management. Thus, should a current PVR be programmed to store a particular multimedia broadcast, which exceeds available storage capacity this may cause the PVR to record over a previously stored multimedia broadcast that the user may wish to retain. Difficulties in managing data may result in user frustration and dissatisfaction.

[0008] An additional disadvantage of current PVRs is the deactivation during a pause, such a one initiated by a user. During a pause while utilizing a current PVR the

multimedia presentation output is halted resulting in no new media being presented to the user. This may not allow the user the flexibility that they desire.

[0009] Furthermore, PVRs currently do not allow a user to vary the multimedia experience. For example a user may wish to only to be presented with the audio portion of the media broadcast, be presented with audio from one broadcast while viewing a second broadcast or view a picture-in-picture PIP

[0010] Therefore, it would be desirable to provide a method and system for providing an enhanced personal video recorder experience. The enhanced personal video recorder system and method may be capable of providing additional functionality thereby allowing a user additional options heretofore unavailable with current PVR systems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] Accordingly, the present invention is directed to a method and system for managing multimedia broadcasts. The present invention may be included in a personal video recorder (PVR), included on computer readable media and the like. Further, the present invention allows for increase functionality allowing a user more options in experiencing multimedia presentations.

[0012] Generally, systems for managing multimedia events contain, a source for generating data streams, a transform for manipulating data streams and a sink for outputting data streams to an output device. Typically, systems for managing multimedia events are implemented on central processing unit (CPU), as part of a software program contained on electronically readable medium, and the like. Multimedia management systems often are included in PVRs and the like. Previous multimedia broadcast management systems have relied on the transform to manage data. Thus, previous multimedia broadcast management systems offered limited functionality.

[0013] In a first example of the present invention, a multimedia broadcast management system is implemented as a central processing unit programmed to generate a source, a transform, and a sink. Managing multimedia broadcast events through the present broadcast management system allows for more effective data management and greater user satisfaction. The multimedia broadcast management system, of the present invention, may be included as part of an enhanced PVR or the like. Presently, the source is utilized to manage data streams through the multimedia broadcast system, as data streams representing multimedia broadcast events are generated, transformed and subsequently output for the user to experience.

[0014] Second, a method for managing multimedia presentations is described. The present method is initiated at the reception of a multimedia broadcast signal. A record data stream representing the broadcast signal is then generated and subsequently decoupled for buffering prior to being sent to a transform. Management of transform tasks in the present example is conducted by the source. After transformation, a service data stream is sent from the transform to a sink for output. Prior to being output to an output device as a playback data stream, a sink task managed from the source may be conducted. Additionally, posted interrupts from the transform and the sink may be processed by the source for further managing multimedia broadcast presentations.

[0015] Furthermore, a multimedia broadcast management system in embodiments is managed from a sink. The multimedia broadcast management system of the present invention is implemented as a central processing unit programmed to generate a source for generating a record data stream, a transform capable of manipulating the record data stream, and the sink additionally capable of outputting a playback data stream to an output device. The multimedia broadcast management system of the present example may be included in a PVR and the like. In the current aspect, a source capable of conducting source tasks, such as generating a record data stream representing a multimedia broadcast event, decoupling, buffering data and the like, is managed by the

sink. Upon completion of the source tasks, the record data stream is sent to a transform. The transform is capable of conducting a transform task on the record data stream, such as storing the data on the buffer connected to the transform. In the present example transform tasks are managed from the sink. As part of the transform task a service data stream is sent to the sink for subsequent output to an output device.

[0016] In a further aspect of the invention, a sink based method for managing multimedia presentations is discussed. The method is initiated through the reception of a multimedia broadcast signal. Source tasks, managed from the sink are then conducted. In the present example source tasks include sending a record data stream to a transform. Subsequent to being received from the source, a transform task managed from the sink is conducted on the record data stream. After the record data stream is transformed, a service data stream is sent to the sink for output. The sink may further conduct a sink task before providing a playback data stream to an output device. Additionally, interrupts posted by the transform and the source may be processed by the sink for further managing multimedia presentations.

[0017] Additionally, a method for providing video display during a pause is discussed. Through the utilization of the present invention, users may opt to experience multimedia events in different ways previously unknown in broadcast management systems. The present method allows for the loading of a preferred video, including a still display which may be updated with relevant data. In the current method, the user may opt to view alternative video displays during the pause. Subsequently, the user is offered various viewing options pertaining to how the user wishes to view the paused event.

[0018] In a further example, during a pause a user may experience a preferred audio, such as music, a periodic beep and the like. The user may then option to vary the audio output, for example listen to a different program's audio during the pause. At the restart

of the paused broadcast the user may be allowed the option of experiencing the resumed broadcast in a variety of ways, such as viewing at an accelerated rate from the pause.

[0019] In another example, the user may be given the option to experience other broadcast events during a pause. For example, the user may choose to experience the audio and video from an alternative broadcast during the pause in the initial event. Upon resumption of the initial event, the user may choose various ways of experiencing the remaining portion of the initial event.

[0020] Furthermore, the multimedia broadcast management system may provide the user the option of timing-out after a set period. This may include turning off an associated television or the like. The user may be optioned to turn off various devices after a set pause time, and upon a failure by the user to respond, the broadcast management system may turn off selected operations while continuing essential operations such as recording.

[0021] In a delayed presentation operation, such as when recording of an event has begun but has not completed, the user may have the option of scrolling through an unviewed portion of the event. The user may scroll from the inception of the pause operation till the event is viewed in real time. The user may further choose to restart the event from the position to which the user scrolled.

[0022] In embodiments of the present invention, the user is capable of managing data by accessing a record/pause set up or a data set-up. Thus the user may prioritize broadcasts, such as to ensure that a particular event is not erased.

[0023] In further examples of the present invention, the multimedia broadcast management system is suitable for displaying multiple video displays. Thus, the user may option to view a second broadcast video image as part of the first video image.

[0024] Additionally, the multimedia broadcast management system of the present invention may be suitable for conducting word or phrase searches so that the user may option to start viewing at the occurrence of a word or phrase.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0025] The numerous advantages of the present invention may be better understood by those skilled in the art by reference to the accompanying figures in which:

[0026] FIG. 1 is an overview illustration of an exemplary embodiment wherein a multimedia broadcast management system is source managed;

[0027] FIG. 2 is a flow chart of a method for managing multimedia broadcast presentations, in a source managed system;

[0028] FIG. 3 is an overview illustration of an exemplary embodiment wherein a multimedia broadcast management system is sink managed;

[0029] FIG. 4 is a flow chart of a method for managing multimedia broadcast presentations, in a sink managed system;

[0030] FIG. 5 is a flow chart of a method for providing an alternate video clip during a pause;

[0031] FIG. 6 is a flow chart of a method for providing an alternate audio clip during a pause;

[0032] FIG. 7 is a flow chart of a method for providing an alternate audio/video during a pause;

[0033] FIG. 8 is a flow chart of a method for controlling power for an additional device;

[0034] FIG. 9 is a flow chart of a method for scrolling through a pause during delayed broadcast utilization;

[0035] FIG. 10 is a flow chart of a method for managing data from a recording / pause set up and from a data storage set-up;

[0036] FIG. 11 is an exemplary embodiment of a system for providing a multi-broadcast experience;

[0037] FIG. 12 is a flow chart of a method for searching data for corresponding text;

[0038] FIG. 13 is a flow chart of a method for optioning a user as to pause options and subsequent user experience options; and

[0039] FIG. 14 is a flow chart of a method for optioning a pause stop/gap feature option.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0040] Reference will now be made in detail to the presently preferred embodiments of the current invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

[0041] Referring generally now to FIGS. 1 through 13, exemplary embodiments of the present invention are discussed, wherein an enhanced system and method for managing multimedia broadcast presentations is employed. Current PVRs offer limited functionality in how a user may experience multimedia presentations. The limited functionality of current PVRs may be related to their management of data. Data management in existing PVRs is conducted through a transform controlling the flow of data through the PVR. Utilization of the present invention allows for more flexibility for a user of a PVR leading to an enhanced multimedia experience.

[0042] Referring to FIG.1, in a first embodiment of the present invention a multimedia broadcast management system 100 is discussed. In the present embodiment, the multimedia broadcast management system 100 is a source managed system. The present invention may be employed as part of an overall system such as a PVR and may be included as an algorithm, such as one encoded on a central processing unit (CPU) 102 included in a PVR, encoded on an electronically readable medium, and the like.

[0043] Initially, a multimedia presentation broadcast is transmitted by a provider. The multimedia broadcast may be transmitted through different technologies, for example the broadcast may be from a cable television provider, a satellite broadcast provider, from traditional over the air television signal provider, from a downloadable broadcast

provider and the like. The broadcast may be received through an appropriate receiver for accepting the broadcast. For example in the case of a satellite, the broadcast is initially received via a satellite dish and associated decoder for communication to a PVR employing the multimedia broadcast management system 100 of the present invention.

[0044] The CPU 102 in the present embodiment is encoded to effectively generate a source 104, a transform 106, and a sink 108. The source 104, may be capable of receiving the multimedia broadcast. The source 104 may be capable of generating a record data stream representing the multimedia broadcast. The record data stream may include component portions representing an audio portion, a closed caption portion, a video portion, and the like of the broadcast event. Furthermore, in the present embodiment the source 104 is capable of managing multiple data streams representing multiple events recorded at different times as well as “live” broadcasts which are passed through the multimedia broadcast management system 100 in real time.

[0045] The source 104, may be capable of decoupling the component media portions included in the record data stream. Decoupled media components may allow the user to experience a portion of the broadcast event independently of another portion of the broadcast event, such as by providing the audio component of the broadcast while the video portion is halted during a pause initiated by a user, thus retaining an active pause.

[0046] The record data stream may be buffered prior to sending the record data stream to the transform 106 connected to the source 104. The record data stream may be buffered so as to create buffers of data to be sent through the multimedia broadcast management system 100. In various embodiments buffering the record data stream includes temporarily storing the data. In the present embodiment the buffered data stream is sent from the source 104 to the transform 106.

[0047] The transform 106 may be capable of performing a transform task on the record data stream received from the source 104 connected to the transform 106. Transform tasks include at least one of storing data on a buffer 110 connected to the transform 106, retrieving data from the buffer 110 and providing a service data stream to the sink 108. In various embodiments transform tasks are managed from the source 104. Managing transform tasks may include launching the transform task to be performed. In the present embodiment, the transform 106 may post an interrupt to the source 104, for example the transform may post an interrupt to the source 104 indicating that data transfer is complete. Furthermore, the transform 106 may be capable of controlling the flow of data received from the source 104.

[0048] Connected to the source 104 and the transform 106 is a sink 108. The sink 108 may be capable of providing a sink data stream to an output device. The output device may include a television capable of accepting a digital signal and the like. The sink 108 may be capable of posting an interrupt to the source 104 such as interrupt signaling the completion of data transfer to the output device. In various embodiments, sink tasks may be managed through the source 104. Managing sink tasks may include launching sink tasks. Sink tasks include at least one of providing a playback data stream to an output device, temporarily buffering data, controlling the flow of data through the sink 108. For example controlling the flow of data may include the flow of data from the transform 106 to the sink 108.

[0049] In additional embodiments the sink 108 may be capable of accepting a user input control. For example, accepting a user input control may include a pause command by a user, a time shift, a data prioritization, altering the flow of data from the sink, placing a marker, searching stored data. Data prioritization may include modifying priorities with respect to stored data such as, adding a no erase marker to save a particular event, authorizing the deletion of an event, prioritizing stored events. Altering the flow of data may include fast forwarding, rewinding, conducting a slow motion operation. Placing a

marker in the present embodiment includes enabling a user to mark a point in an multimedia broadcast such that the user may return to the selected point and the like. Searching stored data may include scrolling through events, an event, and searching closed caption information for a particular word such as “score”, “touchdown”, “goal” and the like. User input controls may be communicated to the sink 108 by a remote control for utilization with a PVR employing the present invention.

[0050] Referring to FIG. 2 a method for managing multimedia broadcast presentations 200 will be discussed. Initially, a broadcast signal, such as a signal from a cable provider or the like is transmitted for reception. Receiving a multimedia broadcast signal 202 may include receiving at least two media component portions. Multimedia broadcasts typically include a video portion, an audio portion and in some examples, additional information. For example, multimedia broadcasts may include closed captioning information.

[0051] Upon reception of the multimedia broadcast 202, a source may generate a record data stream representing the multimedia broadcast. Generating a record data stream 204 may include component portion data, such as data representing an audio portion, a video portion, or the like of a multimedia broadcast event. For example, a typical multimedia broadcast of a sports event would include a video portion, an audio portion and closed caption information.

[0052] After the data stream is generated 204 the source may decouple the component media portions of the record data stream. Decoupling 206 may include separating data representing an audio signal from data representing a video signal and the like.

[0053] Once decoupling 206 the component portions of the record data stream is achieved, the record data stream may be buffered 208. Buffering the decoupled data stream 208 may include temporarily storing the record data stream, generating buffers of

information for transport to a transform. For example, buffering 208 may include temporarily storing the record data stream, packetizing the record data stream into portions for subsequent storage, to facilitate data transport through a multimedia broadcast management system and the like.

[0054] After the record data stream is buffered 208, the stream of data may then be sent to the transform. Sending the buffered record data stream to a transform 210 may be managed from the source. While managing streaming data through the multimedia broadcast system may be accomplished by the source in embodiments the source is capable of accepting posted interrupts from the transform and the sink. For example, should the transform be unable to accept data this is processed by the source to allocate multimedia broadcast management system resources. An additional example includes, posting interrupts by the transform relating to the completion of accepting data from the source.

[0055] Upon receipt of data sent from the source the source manages transform tasks. Managing the transform tasks may include launching the transform task by the source. A transform task is at least one of storing data on a buffer, retrieving data from the buffer, sending a service data stream to a sink, and transforming data. The transform may conduct 212 the desired transform on the data stream as managed from the source.

[0056] The record data stream passed through the transform subsequently is sent to a sink. The sending of data to the sink 214 may be managed by the source and in various embodiments with post interrupts, such as a delay message from the sink being posted to the source for processing. Additionally managed from the source, is a sink task. In the present embodiment managing sink tasks includes launching the sink task.

[0057] Conducting a sink task 216 includes at least one of accepting a service data stream from the transform, temporarily storing data, and controlling the flow of data from the sink.

[0058] The stream of data in the sink may then be provided to an output device. Providing a playback data stream 218 to an output device may include sending a playback data stream to a television with a decoder capable of converting the playback data stream into a video and a audio signal, a closed caption signal and the like.

[0059] In further embodiments the method for managing multimedia broadcasts 200 may include accepting a user input control by the sink. For example, accepting a user input control may include a pause command by a user, a time shift, a data prioritization, altering the flow of data from the sink, searching stored data. Data prioritization includes modifying priorities with respect to stored data such as, adding a no erase marker to save a particular event, authorizing the deletion of an event, prioritizing stored events. Altering the flow of data may include fast forwarding, rewinding, conducting a slow motion operation. Searching stored data may include scrolling through events, an event, and searching closed caption information for a particular word such as “score”, “touchdown”, “goal” and the like.

[0060] Referring to FIG.3, in an embodiment of the present invention a multimedia broadcast management system 300 is discussed. In the present embodiment the multimedia broadcast management system 300 is a sink managed system. The present invention may be included as part of an overall system such as a PVR, such as one encoded on a central processing unit (CPU) 302 included in a PVR, encoded on an electronically readable medium or the like.

[0061] Initially, a multimedia presentation broadcast is transmitted by a provider. The multimedia broadcast may be transmitted through different technologies, for example the

broadcast may be from a cable television provider, a satellite broadcast provider, from traditional over the air television signal provider, from a downloadable broadcast provider and the like. The broadcast may be received through an appropriate receiver for accepting the broadcast. For example in the case of a satellite, the broadcast may be initially received via a satellite dish and associated decoder for communication to a PVR employing the multimedia broadcast management system 300 of the present invention.

[0062] The CPU 302, in the current embodiment is encoded to effectively generate a source 304, a transform 306, and a sink 308. The source 304, is capable of receiving the multimedia broadcast. The source 304 is capable of generating a record data stream representing the multimedia broadcast. The record data stream may include component portions representing an audio portion, a closed caption portion, a video portion, and the like of the broadcast event. Furthermore, in the present embodiment source tasks are managed through the sink 308. Source tasks include at least one of generating a record data stream, decoupling component portions of the record data stream, buffering the record data stream, temporarily storing the record data stream, and sending the record data stream to the transform. The sink 308 is capable of managing multiple data streams representing multiple events recorded at different times as well as “live” broadcasts which are passed through the multimedia broadcast management system 300 in real time.

[0063] The source 304, may be capable of decoupling the component media portions included in the record data stream. Decoupled media components allow the user to experience a portion of the broadcast event independently of another portion of the broadcast event, such as by providing the audio component of a broadcast while the video portion is halted during a pause initiated by a user, thus retaining an active pause.

[0064] The record data stream may be buffered prior to sending the record data stream to the transform 306 connected to the source 304. The record data stream may be buffered so as to create buffers of data to be sent through the multimedia broadcast management

system 300. In various embodiments buffering includes temporarily storing the record data stream, packetizing the record data stream into portions for subsequent storage, to facilitate data transport through a multimedia broadcast management system and the like. In the present embodiment the buffered data stream is sent from the source 304 to the transform 306.

[0065] Furthermore, the source 304 may be capable of posting interrupts to the sink 308. Posting interrupts includes posting an interrupt indicating the data transfer to the transform is complete, data is being received, data is being decoupled and the like.

[0066] The transform 306 may be capable of performing a transform task on the record data stream received from the source 304 connected to the transform 306. Transform tasks include at least one of storing data on a buffer 310 connected to the transform 306, retrieving data from the buffer 310 and providing a service data stream to the sink 308. In the present embodiment transform tasks are managed from the sink 308. Managing transform tasks may include launching the transform task to be performed. In the present embodiment, the transform 306 may post an interrupt to the sink 308, for example the transform may post an interrupt to the sink 308 indicating that data transfer is complete. Furthermore, the transform 306 may be capable of controlling the flow of data received from the source 304.

[0067] Connected to the source 304 and the transform 306 is the sink 308. The sink 308 may be capable of providing a sink data stream to an output device. Output devices include televisions capable of accepting digital signals and the like. The sink 308, in the present embodiment is capable of accepting an interrupts posted from the source 304 and the transform 306.

[0068] Further, the sink in addition to managing the source 304 and the transform 306 manages its own tasks as well including the launching of sink tasks. Sink tasks include at

least one of providing data to an output device, temporarily buffering data, controlling the flow of data through the sink 308. For example controlling the flow of data includes the flow of data from the sink 308 to an output device.

[0069] In additional embodiments, the sink 308 is capable of accepting a user input control. For example, accepting a user input control includes a pause command by a user, a time shift, a data prioritization, altering the flow of data from the sink, placing a marker searching stored data. Data prioritization may include modifying priorities with respect to stored data such as, adding a no erase marker to save a particular event, authorizing the deletion of an event, prioritizing stored events. Altering the flow of data includes fast forwarding, rewinding, conducting a slow motion operation and the like. Placing a marker in the present embodiment includes enabling a user to mark a point in an multimedia broadcast such that the user may return to the selected point and the like. Searching stored data may include scrolling through events, an event, and searching closed caption information for a particular word such as “score”, “touchdown”, “goal” and the like. User input controls may be communicated to the sink 308 by a remote control for utilization with a PVR employing the present invention.

[0070] Referring to FIG. 4 a method for managing multimedia broadcast presentations 400 is discussed. Initially, a broadcast signal, such as a signal from a cable provider or the like is transmitted for reception. Receiving a multimedia broadcast signal 402 may include receiving at least two media component portions. Multimedia broadcasts typically include a video portion, an audio portion and in some examples, additional information. For example, multimedia broadcasts often include closed captioning information.

[0071] Upon reception of the multimedia broadcast 402, a source may generate a record data stream representing the multimedia broadcast. Generating a record data stream 404 may include component portion data, such as data representing an audio portion, a video

portion, or the like of a multimedia broadcast event. For example, a typical multimedia broadcast of a sports event would include a video portion, an audio portion and closed caption information.

[0072] After the data stream is generated 404 the source may decouple the component media portions of the record data stream. Decoupling 406 includes separating data representing an audio signal from data representing a video signal and the like.

[0073] Once decoupling 406 the component portions of the record data stream is achieved, the record data stream may be buffered 408. Buffering the decoupled data stream 408 may include temporarily storing the record data stream, generating buffers of information for transport to a transform. For example, buffering 408 includes packetizing the record data stream into portions for subsequent storage, to facilitate data transport through a multimedia broadcast management system and the like.

[0074] After the record data stream is buffered 408 the stream of data may then be sent to the transform. Sending the buffered record data stream to a transform 410 in the present embodiment is managed from the sink. While managing streaming data through the multimedia broadcast system is accomplished by the sink, the sink may be capable of accepting posted interrupts from the transform and the source. For example, should the transform be unable to accept data this is processed by the sink to allocate multimedia broadcast management system resources. Additional examples include, posting interrupts by the transform relating to the completion of accepting data from the source.

[0075] In the present embodiment, the sink manages both source tasks and transform tasks in addition to sink tasks. Source tasks include at least one of generating a record data stream, decoupling component portions of the record data stream, buffering the record data stream, temporarily storing the record data stream, and sending the record

data stream to the transform. Furthermore, managing source tasks may include launching source tasks.

[0076] Managing the transform task includes launching the transform task by the sink. A transform task is at least one of storing data on a buffer, retrieving data from the buffer, sending a service data stream to the sink, and transforming data. The transform may conduct 412 the desired transform on the record data stream as managed from the sink.

[0077] The record data stream passed through the transform may be sent to the sink. The sending of the service data stream to the sink 414 is managed by the sink in the present embodiment. In various embodiments posted interrupts, such as a delay message, from the transform are posted to the sink for processing. In the current embodiment the sink manages its own sink tasks including launching sink tasks.

[0078] Conducting a sink task 416 may include at least one of accepting a service data stream from the transform, temporarily storing data, and controlling the flow of data from the sink.

[0079] The playback stream of data in the sink may then be provided to an output device. Providing a playback data stream 418 to an output device includes sending a playback data stream to a television with a decoder capable of converting the playback data stream into a video and a audio signal, a closed caption signal and the like.

[0080] In further embodiments the method for managing multimedia broadcasts 400 includes accepting a user input control by the sink. For example, accepting a user input control may include accepting a pause command by a user, a time shift, a data prioritization, altering the flow of data from the sink, searching stored data. Data prioritization may include modifying priorities with respect to stored data such as, adding a no erase marker to save a particular event, authorizing the deletion of an event,

prioritizing stored events. Altering the flow of data may include fast forwarding, rewinding, conducting a slow motion operation. Searching stored data may include scrolling through events, an event, and searching closed caption information for a particular word such as “score”, “touchdown”, “goal” and the like.

[0081] Referring now to FIG. 5 a flow chart of an exemplary method for providing an alternative video clip during a pause 500 will be discussed. Providing additional functionality such as the ability to provide a different video clip may be achieved through the implementation of a multimedia broadcast management system, as previously described. For the purposes of the present embodiment reference will be made to a source managed multimedia broadcast management system such as discussed in FIG. 1. It is to be understood that the present method may be implemented in other embodiments of the present invention without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

[0082] The method for providing an alternative video clip may be initiated by a user inputting a pause control 502. Inputting a pause control 502 may include using a control device such as a remote control to provide a signal to a sink 108 (FIG. 1). In the current embodiment the signal may be received by a PVR employing the method of the current embodiment.

[0083] Once the pause command is received the multimedia broadcast management system may load a preferred video clip. Loading a preferred video clip 504 may include a source managing the multimedia broadcast management system to retrieve stored data indicating a pause status on a display device, an alternative stored video, a real time video display and the like. The preferred video clip may be a still screen and indicate the pause and additional information, such as the amount of time the system has been paused and the like. Additionally, the user may be optioned to vary the video clip displayed during the pause. For example, the user may switch from the preferred video clip indicating a

pause to a video clip which is updated with information such as the duration of the pause, video from a “live” broadcast and the like.

[0084] Upon resumption of the broadcast, for example by the input of a user control, the user may be optioned to resume the broadcast at a different time period. Optioning the user 506 may include allowing the user to input whether they wish to view the remaining portion of the event in real time, view the remaining portion at a normal pace from the initiation of the pause 502, view the event from the pause at an accelerated rate such that the event will reach real time over a certain time period. Once the user inputs the option they desire 508, such as resume from the paused location at normal rate the multimedia even may resume 510.

[0085] Referring generally now to FIGS. 6-13 an exemplary method for providing a alternative audio 600 will be discussed. Providing a different audio clip during a pause may be achieved through the implementation of a multimedia broadcast management system, as previously described. In additional embodiments the present method may be implemented as part of an overall method for managing multimedia broadcast presentations. For the purposes of the present embodiment reference will be made to a source managed multimedia broadcast management system such as discussed in FIG. 1. It is to be understood that the present method may be implemented in other embodiments of the present invention without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

[0086] The method for providing an alternative sound may be initiated by a user inputting a pause control 602. Inputting a pause control 602 may include using a control device such as a remote control to provide a signal to a sink 108 (FIG. 1). In the current embodiment the signal may be received by a PVR employing the current method.

[0087] Once the pause command is received, the multimedia broadcast management system may load a preferred audio clip. Loading a preferred audio clip 604 may include a source managing the multimedia broadcast management system to retrieve stored data indicating a pause such as a periodic beep, an audio portion of another multimedia broadcast, prerecorded audio, such as music and the like. Additionally the user may option to vary the audio clip. For example, the user may switch from a periodic beep to music during the pause.

[0088] Upon resumption of the broadcast, for example by the input of a user control, the user may be optioned to resume the broadcast at a different time period. Optioning the user 606 may include allowing the user to input whether they wish to listen to the remaining portion of the event in real time, listen to the remaining portion at a normal pace from the initiation of the pause 602, listen to the event from the pause at an accelerated rate such that the event will reach real time over a certain time period. Once the user inputs the option they desire 608, such as resume from the paused location at normal rate the multimedia event may resume 610. Furthermore, at resumption the user may vary the audio/ video combination. For example the user may resume video display while playing the audio clip from the pause.

[0089] Referring generally to FIG 7 a method for providing alternative audio and video clips will be discussed generally. The method may be initiated by a user inputting a pause control. In the present embodiment alternative audio and video clips may include a different recorded event, a real time event, such as a live event, and the like.

[0090] Referring generally to FIG. 8 a method for controlling power for an additional device is discussed. For example a PVR employing a multimedia broadcast management system of the present invention may include a power strip for additional external devices such as a television, which may be controlled by the current method. Generally the method is initiated by a pause in operation. After a set time which may be predefined,

defined by a user or the like a device implementing the method may cause the power to be shut off. In further embodiments a PVR implementing the current method may contain a device capable of transmitting a signal to an associated external device such as a television causing the associated television to turn-off.

[0091] Referring generally to FIG. 9 a representation of a pause operation including a scrolling through the recorded portion of a multimedia broadcast while a multimedia broadcast system is recording the end of the event, such as in a delayed mode. For example, a user may wish to begin recording a broadcast event and then start watching at a later time. The user may scroll through the time period between initialization of a pause x and the current portion of the event being recorded y.

[0092] Referring generally to FIG. 10 a flow chart representation of managing data is shown. For example in the present embodiment the user control input of a “no erase” marker may be achieved through the recording set-up or alternatively through a data storage set-up user input control interface.

[0093] Referring generally to FIG. 11, a system for accepting multiple broadcast event output is discussed. In the present embodiment, the multimedia broadcast management system may provide multiple events to allow the user to experience a video, an audio clip from an alternative event while viewing the primary event. Further, the multiple event viewing may include a user pausing/recording a first channel’s event and then pausing/recording a second channel’s event.

[0094] Referring generally to FIG. 12, a method for employing text searching is shown, such as may be implemented by the multimedia broadcast management system of FIG. 1 and the like. In the present embodiment a user may choose to search the closed caption information provided with a multimedia broadcast event to search for a key word such as “touch down” “score” or the like. In additional embodiments, the multimedia broadcast

management system is provided with a library for commonly searched word and or phrases to expedite searching.

[0095] Referring generally to FIG. 13, a method for allowing a user to text search for locating the starting point/stopping point for during one of a pause operation and a record operation is discussed. The user may choose to search text to allow more efficient access to recording/pause operations, such as when implemented in a system of the present invention.

[0096] Referring generally to FIG. 14, a method for allowing a user to option a pause stop/ gap feature is shown. The present method may be implemented by a system of the present invention such as the multimedia broadcast management system of FIG. 1 and the like.

[0001] It is believed that the ENHANCED PERSONAL VIDEO RECORDER of the present invention and many of its attendant advantages will be understood by the forgoing description. It is also believed that it will be apparent that various changes may be made in the form, construction and arrangement of the components/ steps thereof without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention or without sacrificing all of its material advantages. The form herein before described being merely an explanatory embodiment thereof. It is the intention of the following claims to encompass and include such changes.